

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 01600 261511Z

46

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CPR-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6306

INFO AMEMBASSY BANJUL UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1600

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, GA

SUBJ: VISIT OF PRESIDENT JAWARA

REF: BANJUL 131

SUMMARY: AS DEPT AWARE, PRESIDENT JAWARA'S APR 6-13 VISIT TO NEW YORK RAISES QUESTION OF POSSIBILITY HIS MAKING OFFICE CALL ON PRESIDENT NIXON. I CONSIDER IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND ADVANCE GAMBIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS AS WELL AS SERVE WIDER US INTERESTS IN AFRICA, IF PRESIDENT NIXON WERE ABLE TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT JAWARA FOR OFFICE CALL DURING COURSE OF LATTER'S VISIT TO UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY

1. AS OF MARCH 25, GOTG HAS NOT RPT NOT RAISED QUESTION OF JAWARA CALL ON PRESIDENT NIXON, POSSIBLY BECAUSE THEY ARE AWARE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S CROWDED SCHEDULE AND MINDFUL THAT 1972 REQUEST TO CALL ON USA PRESIDENT DURING JAWARA'S TOUR OF US RECEIVED NEGATIVE REPLY. HOWEVER, WASHINGTON VISIT QUESTION MAY WELL BE RAISED WITH EMBASSY BANJUL PRIOR TO JAWARA'S DEPARTURE FROM BANJUL ON PARIL 3. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, GAMBIA PRESIDENT WILL BE ONLY WEST AFRICAN PRESIDENT VISITING US DURING SPECIAL UNGA. HE IS WELL-ESTABLISHED US FRIEND, NOW BEING COURTIED BY
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SOVIETS, NORTH KOREANS AND ARABS. NEITHER CHARGE

McFARLAND NOR I HAVE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF WASHINGTON VISIT OR OFFICE CALL IN ANY WAY TO GOTG. HOWEVER, IF PROSPECTS FOR CALL SHOULD BE GOOD, WE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ON PRESIDENT JAWARA IN BANJUL PRIOR TO HIS APRIL 3 DEPARTURE AND INDICATE THAT, INASMUCH AS HE WILL BE IN US FOR SPECIAL UNGA, PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD CONSENT TO RECEIVE HIM FOR BRIEF OFFICE CALL, PROVIDED MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME CAN BE FOUND.

2. IN ANY EVENT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY DEPT GUIDANCE ON POSITION WE SHOULD TAKE SHOULD QUESTION OF VISIT ARISE. AS CHARGE McFARLAND AND I WILL BE ATTENDING ABIDJAN COM MEETING BETWEEN MARCH 28 AND APRIL 1, REQUEST ANY REPLY DEVELOPED DURING THAT PERIOD BE PASSED VIA EMBASSY ABIDJAN.
AGGREY

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